THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has not carried out any satellite survey for gold exploration in Orissa.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Million Wells Scheme in Karnataka

1490. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells to be dug in Karnataka during the current year under the Million Wells Scheme;

(b) the number of SCs/STs likely to get jobs under the scheme; and

(c) the funds allocated to the State thereunder during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Government of Karnataka has not furnished the target of Wells to be dug under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) during the current financial year. However, during 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 2915.55 lakhs would be available for the implementation of MWS in Karnataka which includes Central allocation of Rs. 2332.44 lakhs and the corresponding 20% State Share amounting to Rs. 583.11 lakhs.

(b) The objective of MWS is to provide irrigation source and land development, free of cost to the small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and non-SCs/STs poor people living below poverty line. Not less than 2/3rd of the allocation made is to be spent for schemes benefiting poor small and marginal SC/ST farmers.

(c) The total Central funds allocated to the Government of Karnataka during last three years under MWS is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Central Allocation
1994-95	4367.14
1995-96	2332.44
1996-97	2332.44

Availability of more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas

1491. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah by vacating the space which is occupied by the Railway office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make space for the conference room at this Yatri Niwas;

(d) if so, whether the condition of the rooms and the fittings of this Yatri Niwas is being considered for improvement; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper maintenance of the electrical, civil works and cleanliness of Yatri Niwas, Howrah?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps have been taken to improve overall condition of Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah, including maintenance and up-keep of the electrical accessories, civil works, cleanliness and periodic inspections.

Fast Track Project

1492. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 32,000 crore fast track project moving at snail's pace" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 9.7.1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the action taken/proposed to ensure effective steps in removal of snags at operational/field levels for efficient execution of the projects during 1997-98 and project-wise strategies worked out;

(d) the action plan finalised for the project in Maharashtra; and

(e) the present status of pending power project proposals in Vidarbha and particularly in Amravati district in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India identified 8 projects for extending its counter guarantee. Out of these fast track projects, counter guarantee has already been issued to Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) of M/s. GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) of M/s. Enron Power Company in Maharashtra. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. withdrew their request for counter guarantee for the Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh. The remaining projects, namely Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (TPP) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh. Neveli (Zero Unit) TPP of M/s. ST-

CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu. Mangalore TPP of M/s. Cogentrix in Karnatka and Bhadravati TPP of M/s Central India Power Company Ltd. in Maharashtra are in advanced stages of negotiation and counter guarantee for the projects are expected to be given shortly. In the cast of Ib Valley TPP (units 4 and 5) of M/s. AES Ib Valley Power Corporation in Orissa. Government of India's counter guarantee had been accorded to the project. Subsequently, the State Government re-negotiated the project parameters, for which fresh clearance of Central Electricity Authority and approval of Government of India for the revised Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is necessary. As regards private power projects that are not eligible for Government of India's counter guarantee, model/ reference PPAs have been circulated to all States/State Electricity Boards for their utilisation. Ministry of Power is providing all possible assistance sought by the IPPs for speedier development of the projects.

(e) No Private Power Proposals are pending in Vidarbha and Amravati district in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Cellular Service in Bihar

1493. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce cellular phone service in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which the cellular phone service is likely to be introduced in each districts of Bihar alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Government has licenced Cellular Mobile Telephone Service to the following two companies on a non-exclusive franchise basis for Bihar Telecom. Circle :

(i) M/S Koshika Telecom. Ltd.

(ii) M/S Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.

(b) As per the terms and conditions of the licences granted to these two companies, they have to cover atleast 50% of the District headquarters within three years of the effective date of the licences which is 12.12.1995.

[English]

Issuance of Waiting List Tickets

1494. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for issuance of waiting list tickets alongwith the procedure maintained to issue waiting list tickets for particular class;

(b) the total number of waiting list tickets issued for the selected trains of different zones during the month of May and June, 1997 train-wise;

(c) the total number of persons provided accommodation out of waiting list tickets;

(d) the number of persons whose waiting list tickets are cancelled after not getting any accommodation;

(e) whether it is noticed that Railways are issuing waiting list tickets double than the capacity of a particular class;

(f) if so, the reasons for issuing huge number of waiting list tickets when railway is unable to provide accommodation to a waiting-list passengers;

(g) whether the Government are considering for issuing less number of waiting list tickets for each class;

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Maximum waiting list for a train is decided based on the total confirmed accommodation available by each class/train and trend of cancellations, etc. In order to ensure uniformity all over Indian Railways, the following uniform upper limits for issue of waiting list tickets in various classes is being adopted on Zonal Railways w.e.f. 1st July, 1996 :-

1st AC/Executive Class	-	30
2 AC	-	100
First Class	-	30
AC 2-tier/Chair Car/Sleeper class	-	300*

* 75 in case one AC 3-tier runs in the trian.

The above upper limit is the running waiting list excluding RAC. In case there are large number of cancellations on particular train/trains as a result of which the accommodation is available even after the running waiting list has touched the upper limit, the Zonal Railways may increase the waiting list for such train/trains on day-to-day basis.

(b) to (d) No such statistics are maintained.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir, in some cases. During rush periods, like Summer, Pooja and Winter vacations, waiting list tickets are issued in increased number to discourage any attempt at cornering of accommodation on trains by unscrupulous elements and ensure that intending passengers are not turned away by unscrupulous staff on false pleas of waiting list being closed. In addition, it also helps railways in planning of attaching of extra coaches and running of special trains etc.